

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 18, 2002**

**CONTACT:
Dena Graziano (202) 226-6888**

Conyers: Bush Lied on Secret Evidence

In response to the Justice Department's decision to use secret evidence against the Global Relief Foundation, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee stated:

"The Bush Administration's decision to use secret evidence against the Global Relief Foundation is a slap in the face of civil liberties proponents and the thousands who supported him because of his campaign pledge to end this unconstitutional practice.

In his October 11, 2000 presidential debate with Vice President Gore, then Governor Bush condemned the use of secret evidence. In December 2001, a Justice Department spokesman repeated the Administration pledge and stated: 'It was a campaign promise by the President. . . . We've abided by that promise.'"

Clearly, the President has reneged on his pledge by seizing millions of dollars from U.S.-based Muslim charities without disclosing evidence to support their allegations. Perhaps even more alarming is what appears to be the use of secret evidence against Rabih Haddad, a prominent religious leader who has been detained indefinitely simply because of his alleged ties to Global Relief.

I call on the President to abide by his campaign promise and to cease the practice of gutting the very freedoms we are attempting to protect."

#107-150#